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COUNTRY East Germany

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. The Reichsbahn coal reserves are stored mainly near marshalling yards, roundhouses, or repair shops. Sometimes the coal is dumped into huge piles and sometimes into bins called "Kohlenbansen." These bins consist of three walls, often made out of railway ties placed on end and bound. No reserves are stored under a roof. On rare occasions a coal pile is covered with a tarpaulin, but in most such cases the covered reserve belongs to the Soviet authorities. Both hard and soft coal, and even the little coal dust on hand, are stored in the same manner. Soft coal piles are regularly sprayed with water to prevent combustion.
2. The Reichsbahn coal reserve for locomotives is stored together with the general utility reserve. While actual Reichsbahn coal reserves exist in storage, a considerable part of the total reserve is a pure matter of book-keeping. The reserves are constantly being drawn upon, while replenishment on route from the mines is credited to the reserve stocks. The coal reserves held by the Russians are seldom touched. Small quantities of Soviet coal reserves were paid out recently in order to assist in the transport of the East German harvest.
3. The coal reserve throughout 1953 has been inadequate so far. [REDACTED] the reserve was below the level of the winter 1952-1953. Forge coal used in the railway repair shops is extremely scarce.

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